

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cop Lane Church of England Primary School, Penwortham

Vision

A welcoming Christian community, committed to one another, giving our very best at all times.

Our Church school is a welcoming and caring Christian family where everyone is valued and supported so that they can flourish. We aim to instil a lifelong love of learning and nurture everyone's individual talents. Through Jesus Christ, our aspirations, hopes and dreams can be achieved.

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

Core values: service, peace, trust, forgiveness, hope and thankfulness

Cop Lane Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision is deeply established, well known and loved by pupils, staff and parents. It resources and empowers the actions of members of the school community. Decision making is underpinned by the vision, and its impact is regularly evaluated.
- Collective worship is a highlight of the school day. A rich variety of activities contribute to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Worship is meticulously planned with consideration given to the cumulative impact of worship over time.
- Pupils and adults have a secure understanding of spirituality. They can explore and share their spiritual experiences. The holistic approach taken is highly effective, creating an environment where it is safe to explore spirituality.
- Driven by the vision, leaders at all levels prioritise listening. Therefore, pupils and parents are confident that their contributions are valued and acted on. This results in a flourishing school community.
- Justice is interwoven throughout school life. Due to this coherent whole school approach pupils feel empowered to fight injustice so that 'everyone...can flourish'.

Development Point

- Deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of diverse beliefs, practices and thinking within a range of world religions and worldviews. This is to strengthen the way pupils understand how people live their lives in many different ways.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision at Cop Lane has been carefully crafted to meet the needs of the school and its community. Staff, pupils and families recognise the ambition it holds for them. It empowers them to achieve their aspirations, hopes and dreams. The vision is supported by six associated Christian values which act as effective scaffolding for action. It functions as a bedrock to draw strength from. Parents, members of the local church and governors see the vision lived out through the lives of staff and pupils. Effective strategies are used to share the vision with school families. Pupils understand it and base their actions on it. The impact of the vision is monitored and evaluated both formally and informally, ensuring that it remains relevant. The school welcomes feedback from the community and other partners to continuously hone the impact of the vision. Therefore, pupils and adults are enabled to flourish.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum is explicitly shaped by the vision. This means that members of the school community are 'valued and supported so they can flourish.' The rigorous vision-led evaluation of school life by leaders at all levels means that the curriculum is continually developing. Thus, it enables pupils and adults to 'give their very best at all times.' The learning experience for those who are considered to be vulnerable or disadvantaged is carefully planned. For example, extracurricular activities are personalised to enable pupils to achieve their aspirations. There is a Cop Lane understanding of spirituality that spreads throughout school life. This includes curriculum opportunities, extracurricular activities, collective worship and moments of spontaneous reflection. Staff are finely attuned to planning and identifying opportunities for spiritual flourishing. Governors understand the school's approach to spirituality and can confidently identify their own role in supporting this.

Worship and Spirituality

Worship in its varied forms is a highlight of the day and infuses school life with meaning and purpose. There are creative links with the local and wider church, which are well established and treasured. The St Mary's Church family demonstrate practical love for the school, engaging in services and activities that are mutually enriching. This partnership nurtures opportunities for the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Worship is thoughtfully planned, personalised and well resourced. Its themes are shared with families through the weekly newsletter and parents look forward to joining superstar worship. They recognise the positive impact that worship has on their families. Leaders are outward looking, ensuring that 'worship disciples' can learn from pupil leaders in other schools. Targeted training is provided for pupils and adults involved in leading worship. There are accessible prayer and reflection opportunities, which members of the school community use regularly. This includes classroom-based reflection areas, invitational prayer in collective worship and a biannual prayer space event. Therefore, the school community is comfortable with a wide range of reflective experiences and can explore its own spirituality. Leaders effectively evaluate worship. This leads to fine tuning that ensures its impact on the lives of pupils and adults is deep and long lasting.

Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision and wellbeing of members of the school community are closely woven together at Cop Lane. Dedicated curriculum resources, pupil happiness heroes and a school counsellor contribute to ensuring that pupils and adults are treated well. Pupils have a strong understanding of equity. Throughout the school diversity is highlighted and celebrated. Positive relationships are modelled by adults and inclusive, dignifying attitudes to one another are demonstrated by pupils. Behaviour is exemplary and pupils are proud of their calm, purposeful and happy school. This is particularly evident at social times where pupils consciously try to be the best they can be, for the benefit of others. The emphasis given to pupil voice and the accessibility of leaders nurtures a culture of wellbeing and positive mental health.



Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils at Cop Lane are inspired to take positive action to fight injustice and make ethical choices. They draw strength and direction from the school vision to guide their actions. Carefully constructed curriculum opportunities, extracurricular activities and the worship programme work together to ensure that pupils are informed and empowered. Through wisely selected books, they learn from the lives of those who challenge injustice. Worship addresses big themes around injustice and what the Bible has to say about this. Pupils experience a wide variety of opportunities to take responsibility. This gives them confidence to make the right choices themselves and to encourage others to do the same. Pupils know that their voice matters in school. They experience democracy in action and understand how to promote justice and equity. They are proud of their achievements in improving the school grounds for wildlife and working with the council promoting road safety.

Religious Education

Leaders of religious education (RE) are thoroughly supported by involvement in diocesan networks, training and through membership of professional organisations. An appropriate variety of monitoring and evaluation procedures mean that leaders are informed about the impact of this support. RE is well resourced and includes support from local faith communities. School reporting procedures prioritise RE alongside other core subjects. This results in RE being a high-status subject, which is led with passion and experience. The curriculum is challenging, well-sequenced and relevant and leaders are courageous in reviewing and developing it. The RE curriculum successfully curates an environment where pupils explore challenging ethical issues. Strong links with the local church help to bring aspects of the RE curriculum to life. However, pupils' understanding of diverse beliefs, practices and thinking within a range of world religions and worldviews is at an early stage of development. Pupils enjoy their learning and value the safe space that RE provides to share their own views and experiences with confidence.

Pupils of all abilities make strong progress in RE. They particularly enjoy RE lessons because they are encouraged to be curious. Assessment is thorough, utilising a range of strategies to effectively capture pupils' learning, thus ensuring clarity about next steps. Regular monitoring, evaluation and training of staff develops confident teaching. As a result, through effective teaching, pupils achieve well in RE.

Information

Address	Cop Lane, Penwortham, Lancashire, PR1 9AE		
Date	10 February 2026	URN	119363
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	197
Diocese	Blackburn		
Headteacher	Ian Ashmore		
Chair of Governors	Chris Teague		
Inspector	Ruth Houston		